

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 /085 W  
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R 241523Z MAY 77  
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1174

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EI  
SUBJECT: IRISH PROBLEMS IN RHODESIA

1. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED TO US AT VARIOUS LEVELS ITS GROWING CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF IRISH NATIONALS IN RHODESIA. THE GOI ESTIMATES IT CURRENTLY HAS 2000 HOLDERS OF IRISH PASSPORTS RESIDING IN RHODESIA, ANOTHER 3000 PERSONS BORN IN IRELAND WHO ARE AUTOMATICALLY IRISH CITIZENS, AND POSSIBLY ABOUT AN ADDITIONAL 5000 SECOND-GENERATION IRISH WHO ARE CONSIDERED NATIONALS IF THEY REQUEST SUCH STATUS, THUS A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 10,000 IRISH NATIONALS RESIDING IN RHODESIA.

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2. IRISH GOVERNMENTS OVER THE YEARS HAVE BEEN STAUNCH IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN RACIAL POLICIES. INsofar AS WE CAN DETERMINE THEIR RECORD ON SANCTIONS IS VERY GOOD. SEVERAL IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSES HAVE BEEN REFUSED. THE GENERAL PUBLIC, INsofar AS IT IS AWARE OF THE ISSUE, SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT. WE GATHER FROM NEWS ARTICLES THAT

PERSONS LIKE BISHOP LAMONT ARE VERY UNPOPULAR WITH THEIR FELLOW IRISH NATIONALS IN RHODESIA, BUT SUCH SENTIMENTS ARE NOT SHARED HERE EXCEPT WITH A TINY MINORITY. HOWEVER, WITH THEIR OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS THE IRISH HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR TERRORISM AS A WAY OF ACHIEVING POLITICAL ENDS. THUS THE SO-CALLED "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" ARE ALSO RATHER UNPOPULAR HERE.

3. THE IRISH TOOK A DECISION SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO BE RATHER TOUGH TOWARD THEIR "NATIONALS" IN RHODESIA. THE PRINCIPAL MEASURE IS ITS POLICY ON ISSUING IRISH PASSPORTS. MFA COUNSELOR JEREMY CRAIG, IN CHARGE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, TOLD US THAT ANY RHODESIAN OF PRESUMED IRISH NATIONALITY WHO REQUESTS A PASSPORT MUST FILL OUT A LENGTHY QUESTIONNAIRE. ANYONE WHO HAS SERVED IN THE RHODESIAN "SECURITY FORCES" IS AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED, THUS, AS CRAIG SAID, EFFECTIVELY DISQUALIFYING ALMOST ALL ADULT MALES AND SOME FEMALES. OTHER APPLICATIONS ARE SCRUTINIZED FOR "PURPOSE", AND THE PASSPORTS ARE USUALLY LIMITED TO SPECIFIC PERIODS AND ONLY FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM IRELAND. BEFORE THE GOI INSTITUTED THESE MEASURES THREE YEARS AGO THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED ABUSES OF THE IRISH PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL ON BEHALF OF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO CRAIG.

4. THE CURRENT CONCERN OF THE GOI IS RELATED TO ITS WORRIES OVER THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN RHODESIA WHICH COULD RESULT IN A SUDDEN EXODUS OF THOUSANDS OF IRISH NATIONALS. MOST, IT IS PRESUMED, WOULD END UP IN CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE IRELAND HAS NO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION. THERE IS AN HONORARY IRISH CONSUL IN JOHANNESBURG, MR. PATRICK RYAN, WHO COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO COPE WITH SUCH A SITUATION. IRISH CONTINGENCY PLANNING ENVISAGES SENDING ONE OR TWO DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS FROM DUBLIN, COUNTING ON AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, ARRANGED WHEREVER INFORMAL CONTACTS COULD BE WORKED OUT, EITHER IN NEW YORK OR GENEVA. THE IRISH WOULD HAVE NOT CHOICE UNDER THEIR LAWS TO ARRANGE REPATRIATION OF THEIR NATIONALS IN SUCH A SITUATION, BUT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR SUCH "REFUGEES". RENDAH

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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